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Letter dated 23 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on the report of the Sharm el Sheikh Fact Finding Committee issued on 22 May 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Pierre **Schori**
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 23 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the report of the Sharm el Sheikh Fact Finding Committee issued on 22 May 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the publication of the report of the Sharm el Sheikh Fact Finding Committee (the Mitchell report), and fully endorses its recommendations. Like the Jordanian-Egyptian initiative, the Mitchell report is a realistic and balanced proposal to work from, in order to restore calm in the Middle East and relaunch the peace process.

The European Union urges the parties to faithfully adhere to the recommendations contained in the report. In particular, the Union expects the parties to take immediate and unconditional steps to cease all violence, to resume security cooperation and to exchange confidence-building measures, including a halt to settlement activities. These are all important elements for a resumption of negotiations, which should then follow. Negotiations should be based on international law, in particular Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), and the principle of land for peace.

The Mitchell report and the Egyptian-Jordanian initiative have provided the parties with the means to break the vicious circle of violence. The European Union expects both parties to do their utmost to stop violence and find a negotiated solution at this critical juncture. The Union stands ready to assist the parties.